

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Layered code-excited linear prediction (CELP) speech encoders/~~decoders~~ with have progressively ~~weakening~~ weaker perceptual weighting filters for the each of the successive enhancement layers ~~in the encoder and decoders have~~ progressively ~~weakening~~ weaker short-term postfilters for increased bit rates (increased number of enhancement layers decoded) and a long-term postfilter for all bit rates.

Please replace the title of the invention on page 1 with the following amended title:

LAYERED CELP SYSTEM AND METHOD WITH VARYING PERCEPTUAL FILTER OR SHORT-TERM POSTFILTER STRENGTHS

Please replace the cross-reference paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

This application claims priority from provisional applications: Serial No. 60/248,988, filed 11/15/2000. The following patent applications disclose related subject matter: Serial Nos. 09/....., filed 04/19/2005,~~(—)~~. These referenced applications have a common assignee with the present application.